

REMARKS

As shown in the claim listing, claims 1-20 are pending. Of these, claims 1, 10, and 18 are independent. Claims 1, 3, 10, 18, and 20 are amended.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Office Action indicated that claims 3, 5, 8, 10-14, and 20 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this Reply, Applicants have rewritten claim 10 in independent form to include all the features of its base claim. Therefore, claim 10 is now in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claim 10.

In addition, by this Reply, Applicants have amended independent claim 1 to include some of the features of allowable claim 3 and have amended independent claim 18 to include some of the features of allowable claim 20. Therefore, for the reasons explained in detail below, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner allow claims 1 and 18, and all their associated dependent claims.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, and 15-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,175,503 to Ernest. As explained above, independent claim 1 is amended to include at least a part of the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 3. Accordingly, claim 1 should be allowable for at least the reasons that claim 3 was allowable.

Claim 1 is now directed toward a cylinder block for an internal combustion engine, including, among other things, a cylinder bore, a coolant jacket, and first and second longitudinally opposed end walls. Each of the first and second end walls include a substantially planar end wall surface arranged on respective first and second planes.

The coolant jacket includes a first portion located between the first end wall and the cylinder bore, and a second portion located between the second end wall and the cylinder bore. At least one of the first and second end walls includes a projecting portion adjacent the top deck which projects longitudinally beyond the first or second plane. The projecting portion has a first vertical depth, and at least one of the first and second portions of the coolant jacket has a second vertical depth. The first vertical depth of the projecting portion does not substantially exceed the second vertical depth of the coolant jacket.

Ernest discloses an air engine housing having cylinder block with a coolant jacket 10 disposed about cylinders 65. The cylinder block has ends 11a and 11b. See Ernest, Fig. 7. However, Ernest does not disclose all the features of claim 1. For example, Ernest does not disclose an end wall having a projecting portion with a first vertical depth, and a portion of the coolant jacket having a second vertical depth, wherein the first vertical depth of the projecting portion does not substantially exceed the second vertical depth of the coolant jacket. There is simply no disclosure in Ernest that any depth of a projecting portion does not substantially exceed the depth of its coolant jacket 10. Therefore, claim 1 should be allowable over Ernest.

Claim 18 is a method claim and is amended to incorporate at least a part of the allowable subject matter of allowable claim 20. Like amended claim 1, amended claim 18 recites a “projecting portion . . . which projects longitudinally beyond the first or second plane, the projecting portion having a first vertical depth, and at least one of the first and second portions of the coolant jacket having a second vertical depth, and wherein the first vertical depth of the projecting portion does not substantially exceed

the second vertical depth of the coolant jacket.” For the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1, claim 18 also should be allowable over Ernest.

Claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 15-17, and 19 depend from and add additional features to independent claims 1 and 18. Accordingly, these claims should be allowable for at least the reasons that claims 1 and 18 are allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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